CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

# Center for Modern Greek Studies
## The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

# ΜΑΝΤΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ*

## Modern Greek Studies Foundation

SPRING 1985 | *MANTATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger | VOL. 1, NO. 1

# A Few Words About Us . . .

*The Executive Committee of the MGSF. From l. to r.: Sen. Nicholas Petris, Athena Vutiritsas, Patricia Aleck, Thanasis Maskaleris, Angelo Tsakopoulos, Eleni Kazantzakis (Tsakopoulos & Kazantzakis are not on the Exec. Comm.), John Cambus, Nicolette Arnest, Christina Duvaras, George Marcus, George Lekas. Credit—Paul Miller*

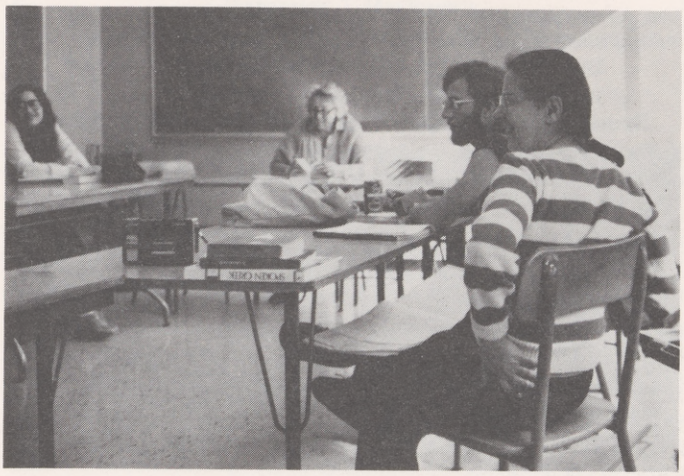
## The Modern Greek Studies Foundation

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation (MGSF), a non-profit public benefit corporation, was established in 1981 in San Francisco. Its principal task is to raise funds for the programs of the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University and to foster the cultural objectives of the Center in the larger community by presenting lectures, exhibits, musical and dramatic performances, and other literary, artistic and educational activities which further understanding of modern Greece and earlier Hellenic traditions. The Foundation also supports the Center in its efforts to expand and develop the curriculum of modern Greek studies at San Francisco State University, and to promote research in the field. Through the Foundation's fund-raising activities, the Nikos Kazantzakis endowed Chair in Modern Greek Studies was established in 1983.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation consists of a broad cross-section of Greek Americans and philhellenes of northern California. His Grace Bishop Anthony of the Greek Diocese of San Francisco is the Honorary Chairman of the Foundation, Senator Nicholas C. Petris its President, and George M. Marcus its Chairman of the Board. The MGSF is committed to fostering the Greek culture in the San Francisco Bay Area and in the state of California.

## The Center For Modern Greek Studies

The Center for Modern Greek Studies was established at San Francisco State University in 1981 and is based in the Department of Classics and Comparative Literature. The purpose of the Center is to promote the study of modern Greek language, literature, history, and culture in relation to Byzantine and earlier Hellenic history and cultural achievements. The Center coordinates courses offered in the Department of Classics and Comparative Literature, the Department of History, as well as other courses in disciplines such as international relations, art history, theater, philosophy and anthropology which are related to the area of Modern Greek Studies, with the ultimate objective of developing an



*Students in the Odyssey seminar at S.F.S.U. Credit—Jan Dobbins*

## What's Inside ...

Inauguration of the Kazantzakis Chair ..... page 2

Melina, Margaret, Quinn & Theodorakis visit the Bay Area ..... page 4

Modern Greek language classes ..... page 3

# Honoring The El Greco Of Letters — The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

On October 24, 1983, one hundred years after the world-famous author was born, inauguration ceremonies were held for the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair in Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University. University President Chia-Wei Woo officiated at the ceremonies, with various members of the University administration and faculty on hand, as well as representatives of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Taking part in the program were Eleni Kazantzakis, the author's widow, and Patroklos Stavrou, a Kazantzakis scholar and current Undersecretary to the President of Cyprus.

*Mrs. Kazantzakis and S.F.S.U. President Chia-Wei Woo at the inauguration of the Kazantzakis Chair. Credit—Paul Miller*

Special tribute was paid to Sacramento developer Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, whose gift of $200,000 was decisive in establishing the Chair. The Chair was the second endowed chair in the U.S., in modern Greek studies, honoring an eminent Greek writer.

San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein declared Oct. 24 to be Nikos Kazantzakis Day; the California State Legislature passed a resolution commemorating the day and honoring Mrs. Kazantzakis, Mr. Stavrou, and Professor Thanasis Maskaleris, Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies. A letter of recognition to honor Mrs. Kazantzakis and the centennial of her husband was sent by California Governor George Deukmejian.

Modern Greek Studies Foundation President and State Senator Nicholas C. Petris and Chairman of the Board George Marcus, present at the inauguration, both emphasized that even though the Kazantzakis Chair was now established, additional funds still needed to be raised to meet the $500,000 goal of the endowment. When fully funded the Kazantzakis endowment will insure—through its income—the continuation of the Modern Greek Studies programs, both academic and cultural, at San Francisco State University and in northern California.

# The Center, cont'd

*Signing ceremony of the Center. From l. to r.: Richard Trapp, Chair of the Depts. of Classics & Comparative Literature; David Hicks; Sen. Nicholas Petris; S.F.S.U. President Woo, Nancy McDermid, Dean of the School of Humanities; Thanasis Maskaleris; George Lekas; Jon Steubbe; Christos Botzios, former Consul General of Greece; Robert Rogers, Dean of Graduate Studies; Richard Giardina, S.F.S.U. Associate Provost; Lawrence Eisenberg, Exec. Director of the Frederic Burk Foundation. Credit—Janet Kraut*

inter-disciplinary major in Modern Greek Studies. At present students may work towards the B.A. or M.A. in comparative literature with emphasis on modern Greek literature.

Courses currently taught include: Modern Greek language (beginning, intermediate and advanced), Modern Greek literature (*Kazantzakis*, *Modern Greek Literature* and *Modern Greek Poetry*), and courses in Modern Greek and Byzantine history. In addition to regular University students, interested members of the community may enroll in these courses through the Extended Education division of San Francisco State University.

The Center also plans and coordinates cultural programs and activities—both on campus and in the community—designed to promote understanding of contemporary Greece.

The Nikos Kazantzakis endowed chair in Modern Greek Studies has been established at the Center. This will make it possible for distinguished visiting scholars to teach courses in their fields of specialization. Finally, the Center aims at encouraging and facilitating study, research and publication in the field of modern Greek studies.

For further information on the academic programs of the Center please contact:

Professor Thanasis Maskaleris, Director
Center for Modern Greek Studies
Department of Classics
San Francisco State University

*Mrs. Kazantzakis at the inauguration with Maria Koston, secretary, and Diane Kounalakis, president, of the Pan Cretan Youth Association. Credit—Paul Miller*

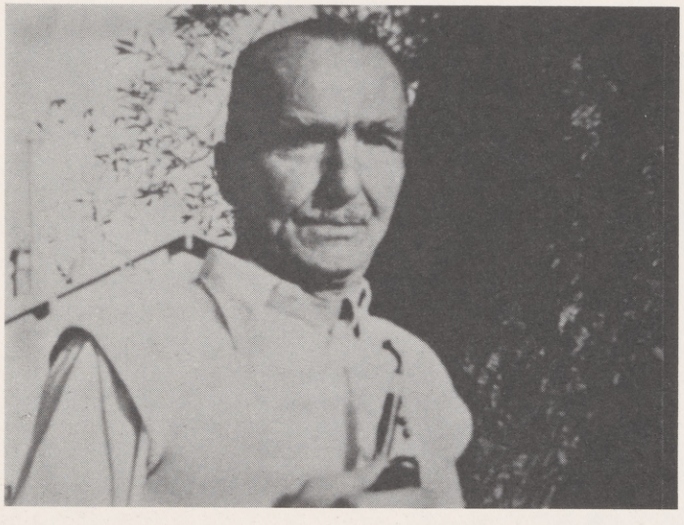
# Kimon Friar To Be Kazantzakis Chair-Holder

Kimon Friar, pre-eminent translator of modern Greek poetry and the works of Kazantzakis (*The Odyssey: A Sequel* and *The Saviors of God*), will be the first visiting distinguished scholar to occupy the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair. He will be teaching courses on Kazantzakis and Modern Greek Poetry at San Francisco State University during the spring semester, 1986. He will also be presenting public lectures throughout the state under the auspices of the Chair.

# "Pilgramage Through Greece"

All things in Greece—mountains, rivers, seas, valleys—become "humanized": they speak to man in a language which is almost human. They do not torment or crushingly overwhelm him; they become his friends and fellow workers. The turbid, unsettled cry of the Orient grows pellucid when it passes through the light of Greece; humanized, it is transformed into logos—reason. Greece is the filter which, with great struggle, refines brute into man, eastern servitude into liberty, barbaric intoxication into sober rationality. To give features to the featureless and measure to the measureless, balancing the blind clashing forces, such is the mission of the much-buffeted sea and land known as Greece.

—Kazantzakis,
*Report to Greco*



*Nikos Kazantzakis.*

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Editors: Thanasis Maskaleris, Katharine Fong

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# Modern Greek Studies Courses Spring '85

CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

**LANGUAGE**

Greek 251
**Modern Greek II**
(Second Semester)
Wed. 7-9:45 p.m. HLL 302
Instructor: C. Savalas

Greek 699
**Independent Study**
(Advanced Modern Greek)
Instructor: T. Maskaleris

**LITERATURE**

WCL 445.01
**Modern Greek Literature in Translation**
(Solomos, Palamas, Sikelianos, Kazantzakis, Seferis, Elytis, Ritsos)
MWF 11-12 p.m. HLL 341
Instructor: T. Maskaleris

WCL 815.01
**Seminar in Selected Research Problems: The Odyssey**
(*The Odyssey* of Homer and *The Odyssey: A Sequel* of Kazantzakis read and discussed in depth)
Wed. 3-6 p.m. HLL 201
Instructor: T. Maskaleris

**Note:** Credit can be obtained through extended education at San Francisco State University.

# Say It In Greek—Language Classes

Classes in speaking, reading and writing modern Greek are offered at S.F. State University, and also at S.F. City College (instructor: **Sophia Lenetaki**) and at the University of California Extension (instructor: **Thanasis Maskaleris** [Spring-Fall]; **Christabel Savalas** [Summer]).

# Sto Mellon—Future Academic/Cultural Activities:

A course in *Greek folk-dancing* is being planned in the department of Physical Education at S.F. State University, and also a course on the *Greek Orthodox Tradition* ...Currently under consideration at the Center is a Modern Greek Studies publication—i.e., a semi-annual journal—devoted to modern Greek literature, history and culture...Workshops and conferences on various aspects of modern Greek life and on the Greek-American experience are also scheduled...

# Eikones Of Greece...

Since the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and the Center were founded in 1981, they have presented or participated in many exciting cultural events. This past fall, composer **Mikis Theodorakis** was honored by the MGSF at a special reception following his concert here in the San Francisco Opera House. Last spring the MGSF co-sponsored a gala banquet and reception as benefit events for the Greek cultural programs at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The guests of honor were **Mrs. Margaret Papandreou** and **Greek Minister of Culture and Sciences Melina Mercouri**. In the summer of 1983 actor **Anthony Quinn** was presented with a special award at a reception given by the MGSF in recognition of his work in the film *"Zorba the Greek"* and the musical hit *"Zorba."*

*Gala Benefit for the 1984 Olympics. From l. to r.: Athena Simonides, Alex Spanos, Faye Spanos, George M. Marcus, Melina Mercouri, Thanasis Maskaleris, Bishop Anthony, Anna Petris, Sen. Nicholas Petris, Dr. Anastasiou Simonides, Christos Botzios, Fanis Economides. Credit—Leo Gaton*

*Margaret Papandreou with Thanasis Maskaleris. Credit—Leo Gaton*

Dramatic presentations have also been very much in evidence. **Rasmy Tsopelas** appeared at U.C. Berkeley with her tour-de-force *"Scenes from Greek Tragedy"* in December, 1983. During the celebration of the Kazantzakis Centennial in October, 1983, two plays were presented at S.F. State University: *Man of Crete*, based on the life of Nikos Kazantzakis, and Sophocles' *Philoctetes*, both directed by **George Marchi** and performed by members of the American Repertory Theatre from Europe.

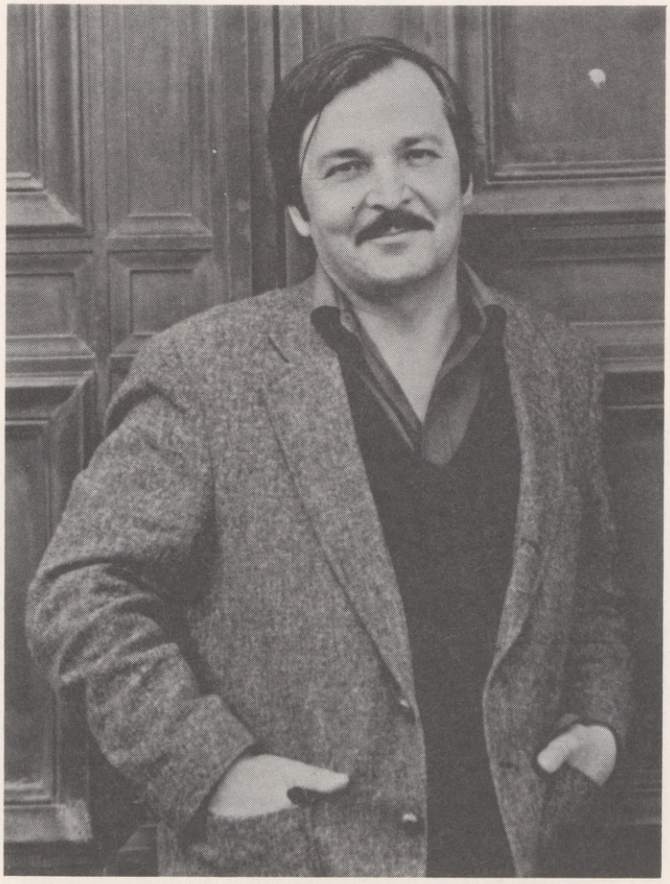
*Mikis Theodorakis with Bishop Anthony, Angelo Tsakopoulos and Tulla Moroufas. Credit—Arne Folkedal*

During the Kazantzakis Centennial Week an exhibit was presented on the life and works of the author at the Library of the University; **Eleni Kazantzakis** and **Patroklos Stavrou** delivered special lectures.

Other programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the Center/MGSF: Classical guitarist **George Sakellariou** performed at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco in the fall of 1983...Composer **Francis James Brown** and singer **Mary Gifford** appeared in the Bay Area for two consecutive years with their programs of music on Greek themes...The **Dorian Singers** performed *"Byzantine Sacred and Modern Greek Folk Music"* both at S.F. State and at the Oakland Greek Orthodox Church...**Stathis Trahanatzis'** painting and iconography exhibit at the Oakland Church drew an appreciative audience...**Stratis Haviaras** read excerpts from his poems and new novel in S.F. and in Berkeley last spring...**Eleni Fourtouni** has read from her own poetry and translations of modern Greek women poets...*"A Tribute to Odysseus Elytis"* included readings and commentary on the Nobel Prize-winner's works...Cyprus' art, history, literature and culture were discussed by **Sir David Hunt**, archaeologist, diplomat and former British high commissioner in Cyprus... *"The Byzantine treasures of Mount Athos"* was a special presentation by **Prof. Thanos Johnson** of the College of Marin...

# Eikones Of Greece...

*Anthony Quinn with Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Tsakopoulos. Credit—Leo Gaton*



*Stratis Haviaras. Credit—Shyla Irving*

# The Modern Greek Studies Foundation's Executive Committee

| | |
|---|---|
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*Anthony Quinn with Thanasis Maskaleris and Jim Monolakis.*

# Morphotiki Pikilia—Upcoming Events

**1985 Greek Independence Day Celebration** co-sponsored by the MGSF/CMGS: a cultural program of music, dance, and other special presentations. To be held at McKenna Theater at S.F. State University, Saturday, March 24 at 6 p.m...

**Greek Film Festival** at S.F. State University (fall/winter 1985), including both well-known and recent works by Greek film-makers...

**One-Act plays** at S.F. State University—written by contemporary Greek writers and directed by George Marchi of the American Repertory Theatre from Europe...

Composer **Theodore Antoniou** will conduct musical compositions based on Kazantzakis' works...

The Center is coordinating state-wide lectures by **Alice Scourby**, sociologist and author of *The Greek Americans*, to be given later this spring...

Exhibits of works by Greek and local Greek-American artists...

# The Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Modern Greek Collection

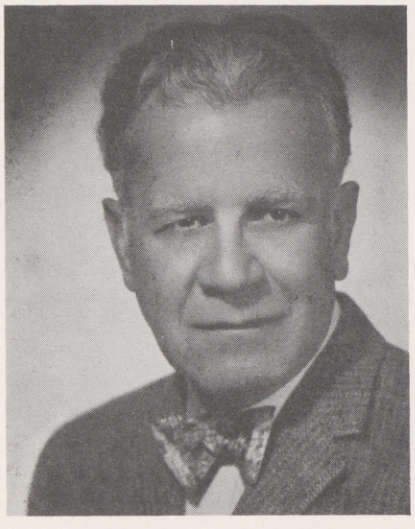
The Center is coordinationg the acquisition of books and research materials to increase the present holdings of the University Library and provide adequate sources for the study of modern Greece. This special collection will include folk art and decorative items (hand-crafted works, costumes, icons, etc.), research and archival materials (historical and diplomatic documents, written and oral folklore, folk music, poetry recordings, reference works and other research tools, art books, maps and slides, etc.) and standard works of literature and in the fields of history, culture and social studies.

The Center's collection has been named the **Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Modern Greek Collection**, in honor of the father of Angelo K. Tsakopoulos of Sacramento, who is the major donor in the establishment of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair.

The Center will be exhibiting on a revolving basis objects from its own collection and/or materials on loan from the Greek government, Greek artists and from private collections.

A large collection of books on modern Greece were donated by **Ellen Farras** of Daly City. These books were part of the personal library of her late uncle **Nicholas Papalaios (Pope)**, who was born in Galaxeidi, Greece, and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 17. The books are primarily the works of modern Greek authors and studies on modern Greek literature and culture; as such, they are an invaluable addition to the Modern Greek collection at the University.

The Center welcomes donations of books, handicrafts, etc. to the Collection.



*Nicholas Papalaios (Pope). Credit—Melas*

## Join Us!

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation is appealing to all persons who support the goals of the Foundation and the programs of the Center to send in their tax-deductible donations (see special cut-off form on back page) and to contact the Foundation if they wish to volunteer their time and services.

Membership will place you on our mailing list and enable you to receive our newsletter, as well as announcements of and invitations to other special events sponsored by the MGSF and the Center. Your help is greatly appreciated!

# Contributors To The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Major Contributors:

**Angelo K. Tsakopoulos,** Sacramento

**Eleni Kazantzakis**

**The Rt. Rev. Anthony, Bishop**, Greek Orthodox Diocese of S.F.

**Dr. A.K. Simonidis**, Honorary Consul General of Cyprus

Contributiong Organizations:

**Monterey Committee of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation**

**AHEPA Chapter #23**, Salinas, Calif.

**Daughters of Penelope, Urania Chapter**

**Order of AHEPA, National Educational Committee**

**Democritos Society West**

Other Contributors:

**Mr. & Mrs. John Pappas**, S.F.

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**Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mavris**, Crescent City

**Mr. & Mrs. Socrates Eleftheriades**, Monterey

**Ms. Helen Delevois**, Antioch

**Mrs. M.D. Peterson**, Berkeley

Pledged Support:

**The Pan-Cretan Association of America**

**The Pan-Cretan Youth Association of America**

**The Greek Ministry of Culture & Sciences**, Melina Mercouri, Minister

*Sen. Petris (center) with Nikos Itsines and Aris Zavitsanos of the Monterey Committee of the MGSF.*

# Center Affiliations and Scholarships

The Center is affiliated with several year-round academic institutions and summer study programs in Greece. These include the Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki, the Athens Centre, the Ionic Center in Chios and Athens, and the European Cultural Center—Delphi. The Center is also working on developing affiliations with a number of other institutions—the Universities of Thessaloniki and Crete, Anatolia college, etc. Completion of relevant courses at these institutions may earn credit transferable to the student's home university in the U.S. Further information and applications for these and other programs (Study in Greece, College Year in Athens, the Hellenic-American Union, etc.) are available at the Center.

At the present time limited financial assistance is provided to students in Modern Greek Studies in the form of assistantships. The Center is working toward establishing scholarships to aid students for study at S.F. State University and at affiliated programs in Greece.

Through its affiliation with the American Repertory Theatre from Europe, Inc. (ARTE), the Center will sponsor presentations of ancient and contemporary Greek plays, under the direction of George Marchi.

# Returning To The Roots—NOSTOS

**Nostos**, the Greek word for return (return to one's origins, roots) is the name for a planned Center for the Study of Myth and Ritual. *Nostos*, an independent entity, would be a summer program affiliated with the Center for Modern Greek Studies, whose purpose and focus will be the study of Greek mythology as well as mythologies of the Mediterranean area. The ultimate aim of *Nostos* will be a search into contemporary life, its problems and conflicts, through insights inherent in the mythical vision.

*Nostos* will convene annual summer symposia, usually in July of each year. Mythology specialists would teach the academic summer program, and a tour of myth-related sites in Greece will follow residence at *Nostos.*

The ancestral Valaoritis villa (home of the national poet Aristotelis Valaoritis) on the Greek island of Madouri off Lefkas, will be the focal point and scene for the seminars, conferences and educational programs, as well as the artistic-ritual activities of *Nostos.*

# Welcome—New Members On The Board of Directors

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation is pleased to announce the new members on its Board of Directors, elected at the annual meeting on February 9, 1985. The new members will serve on the Board for the next three years, and will be joining the continuing members in their fund-raising and cultural activities.

Congratulations and much success to all!

**Elizabeth Anderson**
**Lilika Anderson**
**Diogenes J. Angelakos**
**Antoinette P. Cakouros-Sargetis**
**Peter Haikalis**
**Totten Heffelfinger**
**Diane Holt**
**Dena Karbo**
**Markos Kounalakis**
**Cleo Lekas**
**Soula Leones**
**Mary Thodos**
**John Vasil**
**John B. Vlahos**

# Modern Greek Studies Memorial Fund

A contribution was received from Mrs. Cleo M. Lekas in memory of Bill Falcone, beloved father of Mrs. Peter Vorvolakos.

An additional contribution was received from Mr. & Mrs. George Lekas and Ms. Araceli Lasola to honor the memory of the beloved John N. Pappas of Kyrarissi, Greece.

(Donations to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation Memorial Fund benefit the Kazantzakis Chair Endowment Fund.)

*The Valaoritis villa in Madouri. Credit—Thanasis Maskaleris*

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CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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December 10, 1983

Dear Friends,

As you may know, for the past two years the Modern Greek Studies Foundation has been engaged in fund raising to support the programs of the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University and to establish an endowed Chair in Modern Greek Literature and Culture. Our efforts have been for the most part successful, chiefly through a major donation ($200,000.00) by Mr. Angelo Tsakopoulos of Sacramento, California, and the support of many friends and organizations in the Greek-American community. In the past two years the Foundation has funded courses in Modern Greek Studies and cultural programs presented by the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Modern Greek Studies Foundation.

On October 24, 1983 the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair was inaugurated at San Francisco State University. Although the full endowment for the Chair ($500,000.00) has not been raised we proceeded to inaugurate the Chair during the Centennial Year of Nikos Kazantzakis, and in the presence of his widow, Mrs. Helen Kazantzakis. We still need to raise the remainder of the required endowment, $200,000.00, so that the Modern Greek Studies program can function at an optimum level, which includes developing an academic interdisciplinary major in Modern Greek Studies, bringing visiting scholars and artists to the University and presenting cultural programs to the community.

We are writing to you, a person committed to fostering the Hellenic traditions and culture, to ask for your support in this important effort. We would very much appreciate your personal contribution toward the endowment of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, as well as any effort to secure support for this purpose from your friends. All contributions to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation are tax-deductible.

Sincerely,

Bishop Anthony of San Francisco, Honorary Chairman, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

California Senator Nicholas C. Petris, President, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Professor Thanasis Maskaleris, Director, Center for Modern Greek Studies, S.F.S.U.

George M. Marcus, Chairman of the Board, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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